

## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

GRANT PERIOD: 2017–2022

### FAMILY CONNECTIONS THROUGH PEER RECOVERY (FAMILY-CPR)

**LEAD AGENCY:** Broward Behavioral Health Coalition Inc.

**TARGET SERVICE AREA:** Broward County

**LOCATION:** Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION:** 4

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED:** FL-22

### BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Inc., ChildNet, Inc., the Florida Department of Children and Families Southeast Region, the Dependency Drug Court of Broward County, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), South Florida Wellness Network, Broward County Department of Human Services, Children's Services Council of Broward County, and the Children & Families Leadership Association and System of Care Partners join in partnership to bring much-needed resources to Broward County. The project plans to demonstrate that the early identification, the use of best practice interventions combined with peer support, ongoing follow-up, and a closely coordinated team approach over a longer period of time can change child welfare outcomes for families. The project is family centered and child-focused, with the goal of keeping children safe at home.

The intervention delivered is Family Functioning Therapy (FFT) combined with Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP), cognitive behavioral therapy, Continuing Care Parent Advocate (Peer Specialist) and the use of Motivational Interviewing techniques and coordinating substance abuse treatment.

The overarching objective of the Family Connections Through Peer Recovery (Family-CPR) Project is to demonstrate that an integrated continuum of care, combined with an intensive family engagement component and peer support, will result in increased parental retention in treatment, enhanced provision of targeted services for children and parents, improved parenting practices, and a decrease in family trauma. The aim is to enhance child and family well-being and reduce incidences of re-abuse, child welfare re-referrals, and removals.

**TARGET POPULATION:** The target population is families from the geographic boundaries of Broward County who meet the inclusion criteria:

- Child is 0 to 11 years of age, referred for investigation of child maltreatment, and upon investigation a substance use disorder has been found to be a leading factor in the child/children being deemed "unsafe" by Child Protection Investigative Services.
- A parent/caregiver with factors indicative of substance abuse and a child that either:
  - Resides in the home with their primary caregiver
  - Placed with either relative or non-relative unlicensed care

**PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED:** The project proposes to serve 144 families over the life of the grant—72 in the intervention group and 72 in the control group.

## MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

**GOAL:** Develop a system and continuum of care that adequately addresses the needs of families afflicted by addiction who are not currently in treatment and are at risk of losing their children due to child abuse and neglect allegations.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Increase connection to and retention in services for the participating families.
- Improve children's functioning and developmental outcomes particularly related to mental health status, recovery from trauma, healthy attachment, and social development.
- Reduce parent/caregiver's substance abuse and risk for child abuse.
- Prevent re-referral or further involvement in the child welfare system.

## KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP)          | • Functional Family Therapy                                     |
| • Family Wellness Recovery Action Planning (F-WRAP) | • Family Therapy—Traditional/Short-Term, Intensive/Long-Term    |
| • Cognitive Behavioral Therapy                      | • Aftercare/Continuing Care/Recovery Community Support Services |
| • Intensive/Coordinated Case Management             |   |

## PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • ChildNet  | • South Florida Wellness Network      |
| • Children's Services Council   | • System of Care Partners, LLC        |
| • Broward Addiction and Recovery Center                               | • Behavioral Health (SA/MH) Coalition |
| • Broward Sheriff's Office of Child Protection Investigations Section |                                       |

## EVALUATION DESIGN

The grantee's local evaluation has an impact study, an implementation study, and a partnership study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

### IMPACT STUDY DESIGN

The grantee uses a randomized controlled trial to examine the impact of its RPG services among families with a child ages 0 to 11, and which are found during a child maltreatment investigation to have a substance use disorder. Members of the program group receive the Family-CPR Approach. They are assigned to a coordinated team comprised of a peer advocate, who delivers WRAP and helps families access formal and informal recovery supports; and a child welfare caseworker trained as a family care coordinator, who completes the family's case plan, coordinates with the peer, makes referrals, and teaches parent skill-building techniques. Families receive RPG program services for up to 12 months. Members of the comparison group receive the treatment-as-usual child welfare case management services, which include Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) and the Motivational Support Program (including substance abuse treatment). The impact study includes 144 families, with 72 in the program group and 72 in the

comparison group. The grantee examines impacts in the following domains: safety, permanency, child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

Data sources include administrative data and information collected by data collectors using standardized instruments. Trained data assessors collect data from both the program and comparison groups using the standardized instruments. The data assessors do not know whether families are in the program group or comparison group. Data is collected three times for each family: (1) when families begin services (baseline), (2) 6 months after baseline, and (3) 12 months after baseline.

#### **PROCESS AND COLLABORATION STUDY DESIGN**

In the implementation study, the grantee uses a formative evaluation design, documenting and describing RPG project operations from the development stage through service delivery. Data sources include interviews with staff, documentation of project procedures, process measures of care coordination, service utilization information, and case files (which are used to assess adherence to Family-CPR model).

In the partnership study, the grantee examines how the project stakeholders and partners work together. The grantee is also assessing changes in the capacity for collaboration; how that collaboration may increase or improve over time; and the gaps, challenges, and successes of cross-system collaboration. Data sources include project documentation, meeting notes, and observations of stakeholder interactions and meetings. The grantee is also implementing the Collaborative Values Inventory and the Interagency Collaboration Activities Scale with partners.

### **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES**

The project builds upon existing resources in the community that will be strengthened and enhanced through this project. The SUD treatment services provided by Broward County and the IFPS services provided by the Children's Services Council (CSC) of Broward are provided as matched. If project outcomes are positive, these services will remain in place, and ChildNet will repurpose Child Advocates to become trained and competent in the Family CPR Approach. To plan for sustainability, the Family CPR Approach will practice utilizing a "Train the Trainer" approach that will be implemented in year 5, thereby institutionalizing the practice in Broward's System of Care.

Additionally, Florida's Medicaid Managed Care Plans are beginning to reimburse for parent advocacy peer services. Magellan Complete Care currently provides reimbursement. The Family-CPR project will outreach to the Sunshine State Health Plan and the Florida Child Welfare Managed Care Plan to establish reimbursement for peer services. Hence, the project will be fully self-sustainable by the conclusion of the Regional Partnership project. Since child welfare and behavioral health are privatized and local, the community can fund and expand the project when federal funding ceases if, in fact, the data show positive outcomes.

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